Midsummer Music
in celebration of our 30th anniversary
with the Cromwell Singers and Forty Thieves

Concert Programme
Saturday 6th July 2019
St Nicolas’ Church, Newbury
Programme

Welcome
Camilla Oldland, CEO Living Paintings and Danni Curtis

Cromwell Singers
What a Wonderful World
Al Shlosha
Wizard of Oz

Forty Thieves
Twenty Years – Civil Wars
Tell Me True – Sarah Jarosz
Love is the Seventh Wave – Sting
Lighthouse – The Waifs

Cromwell Singers
Jersey Boys

Interval
Please enjoy refreshments and support our tombola and Summer Prize Draw

Cromwell Singers
Abba

Forty Thieves
Smoke of Home – Megson
Was It You? – Elephant Revival
Rivers and Roads – The Head and the Heart
For the Widows in Paradise, For the Fatherless in Ypsilanti – Sufjan Stevens

Cromwell Singers
Waltzing Matilda
Alexander’s Ragtime Band
As Long As I have Music
Welcome to our evening of music in celebration of 30 years of transforming lives for blind and partially sighted people. During that time Living Paintings has been building success stories with blind and partially sighted people at every stage of their lives. We have helped children learn to read, supported students in schools, inspired new interests and enabled lifelong learning for adults. We have helped blind and partially sighted people aspire, find success, fulfil dreams and simply get more out of life.

All this has been achieved thanks to the wonderful efforts of our volunteers whose endeavours we are here to honour tonight. Of course, alongside this in the financial support that we receive from all quarters. Our work simply would not happen without these two elements and so I thank you all for attending and contributing funds which will ensure an even better future for Living Paintings and the thousands of blind and partially sighted people that our work reaches.

Finally, I would like to thank the Cromwell Singers for choosing us to be the beneficiaries of this lovely concert.

Camilla Oldland
Chief Executive, Living Paintings
Jack’s Story

Jack, and his twin sister Emily, were born extremely prematurely at just over 24 weeks. Jack was a tiny 1lb3oz when he was born. He spent nearly six months in hospital and was oxygen dependent for his first year. He developed Retinopathy of Prematurity at three months and had extensive laser surgery to save his sight. Jack is now 4 years old and a year ago he was registered as visually impaired. He has always loved stories and has a brilliant imagination. The family joined Living Paintings when he began to learn braille and the delivery of a box of books every few weeks has become a source of great excitement to Jack, and his sister Emily.

“We have only a couple of our own braille books, so it has been a wonderful resource to have, showing Jack that braille is normal and fun. We play games with the raised pictures at the front and back of the books and Jack is always proud to show off his latest reads to anyone who visits the house! We are so thankful to Living Paintings for creating such beautiful resources; they have brought braille and pictures into our home in a new, accessible and exciting way.”
Claire’s Story

“I felt that the world was fading and I was retreating into darkness. I needed something to bring some beauty back again.”

And that’s just what Living Paintings have done for Claire, from Croydon, who lost her sight in her mid-forties as a result of the combination of degenerative myopia, with which she was born, and acquired glaucoma. “I think that most people don’t understand what being blind is really like. I can’t tell day from night. I am in total darkness all the time. That’s why I value the [Touch to See Book] club so very much. The friends I have made through the group are wonderful – it is so inspiring to be with them. We are a little mix of everything from age 30 to age 90, Sikhs, South Africans, Sri Lankans and elderly ladies like me!” Of her first Touch to See picture, The Cat in the Cottage Window, Claire said:

“When I heard the music and text, when I felt the cat and the pots on the windowsill, I was quite ecstatic... Living Paintings had brought beauty back into my life.”
Tonight’s Performers

The Cromwell Singers

We are a friendly group whose philosophy is one of combining musical enjoyment for our members and for our audience, whilst allowing members to develop their musical skills in a supportive environment. Founded in 1976, the Cromwell Singers have a long tradition of singing a variety of different styles of music, mainly shorter pieces, including medleys of songs from musicals, classical pieces and lighter items. Each season we perform concerts by invitation for charitable causes, and over the years many thousands of pounds have been raised.

Sarah Cope: Musical director
Trevor Defferd: Guest accompanist

Forty Thieves

Drawing on eclectic musical sources, Forty Thieves serve up a contemporary folk sound, weaving poetic tales of life and love with a fusion of spellbinding harmonies and captivating musicality. Food for the soul.

Brian Daws: vocals, acoustic guitar, five-string banjo, harmonica
Stuart Hutchinson: vocals, ukulele bass, double bass
Sarah Ducker: vocals
Rhodri Bowen: percussion, mandolin
Dan Digweed: acoustic guitars
Tom Digweed: lap steel guitar
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Thank you for your support
Sowing the seeds for a better future for blind and partially sighted people